ABSTRACT

The invention describes compositions and methods for recombinant protein expression in a wide range of cell types. The compositions comprise an IRES sequence from the Drosophila *labial* (*lab*) gene, or a variant or fragment thereof, or alternatively, a homolog of a *lab* IRES, or a variant or fragment thereof. Methods of using the compositions are also described.

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT & DUNNERLLP

1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com